

From: john@research.att.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/11/02 8:42am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To: Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Ms. Hesse,

I have been working in the software and technology sector for over twenty years. I experienced programming before there was a Microsoft, I experienced e-mail, the internet and web browsing before Microsoft entered the arena, I experienced Java(TM) technology before Microsoft took interest in it. In all these cases, I can assure you that there was more competition, *both* intellectual and economic, before Microsoft lumbered into the picture. I also experienced AT&T when it was a monopoly and afterwards. As a monopoly, it was undeniably a better place to work because of all the non-work related comforts available and the job security, but the productivity of AT&T improved and its creativity did not suffer after its monopoly was ended.

Too many excellent technologies are struggling or have struggled (and lost) against Microsoft while Microsoft continues to produce buggy, bloated, insecure products that lack creativity. Most of the Microsoft "innovations" - if examined closely - are inferior variations of the creations of its struggling competitors. For example, while Apple worked hard to merge the best operating system (UNIX and its variants) with a creative re-working of the best OS user interface (Apple's own) to produce OS X, Microsoft follows a year later with XP, which took the high resolution, large-icon look and feel of the Apple product (and even stole the "X" from the name) and grafted it onto its old, buggy NT operating system... the result, not surprisingly was a buggy OS with major security flaws. Yet, XP will crush OS X not because it is better or more innovative, but because Microsoft has such an enormous installed base and because - to paraphrase the old expression regarding IBM - nobody ever got fired for choosing Microsoft.

In addition to the installed base, the greatest factor that assures the continuance of the Microsoft monopoly is their adherence to closed, proprietary data formats that constantly change in minor, unimportant ways so as to frustrate competitors that attempt to interface with them. The Office Suite, with its Word, Excel, PowerPoint and other data formats, maintains its control of the office productivity tool market by making sure it is difficult for other tools to read those formats and almost impossible to write them. If a split of Microsoft along OS and application lines is completely off the table, then any

other remedy should, at a minimum, require Microsoft to openly and freely publish up-to-date specifications of its data formats. Without the ability of competitors - and especially innovative, small-operation competitors - to easily read AND write Microsoft formats, real competition can never occur. Microsoft Office document formats are the lingua franca of the business world and any tools that plan to compete MUST speak that language fluently.

Naturally, the views expressed here are entirely my own and should not in any way be construed to reflect the opinions of AT&T, its management, its employees or its shareholders.

Best of luck with your endeavors in pursuit of Justice in this matter,

John Mocenigo, PhD

--

John Mocenigo	E-Mail: john@research.att.com
Research @ AT&T Labs	Voice: 1-973-360-8639
180 Park Av / Bldg 103 / Rm D-225	Fax: 1-973-360-8055
Florham Park, NJ 07932-0971	